GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3123
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2007
DEMAND OF COAL .
Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Pathak Shri Brajesh;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of coal for construction sector has increased during the current year;

(b) if so, whether dependence on coal import has been increasing;

(c) the quantum of coal obtained from the coal deposits in the country during the current year;

(d) whether the imported coal is being/has been procured at cheaper rates;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total segments of construction sectors for which coal is being imported in the current year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a)to(c): Coal demand is a function of growth of national economy. The demand of coal has been increasing as the national economy is steadily doing well. Coal demand for construction sector is not assessed separately. It is assessed for sectors like Power, Steel, Cement etc. The estimated total demand of coal in the country of 474.18 million tonnes in 2006-07 is planned to be met from domestic supply of 432.39 million tonnes. This leaves a gap of 41.31 million tonnes which will be met by imports. Import of coal is resorted to due to limited indigenous availability of coking and low ash non-coking coal, and consideration of location specific landed cost.

(d)to(i):Government do not import coal. Since coal is under Open General Licence (OGL), consumers are free to import coal based on their requirements. By and large at present the cost of imported coal is higher than the cost of indigenous coal, on a comparable basis, except in some specific coastal based locations.